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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION  
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Cooperation with State and Federal Agencies

17/45  
COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 12, 1945  
(Third Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1945)

Present prospects indicate that growers in most sections may have to give more attention to cotton insect control in 1945 than was required in 1944.

BOLL WEEVIL

Boll weevils continue to be numerous in many localities. They are more abundant during the first half of May than in any year since 1941. Some growers in southern Texas have been using calcium arsenate and reports indicate that many growers in other sections have the calcium arsenate and are ready to begin the fight against the boll weevil when and if it becomes necessary.

TEXAS: In cotton square examinations in 117 fields in southern Texas, no punctured squares were found in 7 fields; in 56 fields less than 10% of the squares were punctured; in 33 fields the infestations ranged from 11 to 25%; in 20 fields from 26 to 50%, and in one field more than 50% of the squares were punctured. Control measures were being used in 28 of these fields in Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Wells, Starr, and Willacy Counties. Boll weevils were found at the rate of about 150 weevils per acre in 15 additional counties where 82 fields in which cotton had not reached the squaring stage were examined. In the hibernation cages at Waco the percent of emergence of boll weevils continues to be much higher than during any of the past 5 years except 1941. It is about one-half what it was on May 12 of that year. However, in the field the weevils occur in about the same numbers as a year ago at this time. Last year, hot, dry weather in June and July checked a threatening boll weevil situation.

LOUISIANA: At Tallulah, about 2% of the weevils had emerged in the hibernation cages by May 11, which is a higher emergence at that date than in any year since 1941, when more than 4% of the weevils had emerged in the cages between May 1 and 11. Last year (1944) only 0.33% of the weevils had emerged by May 11 and in 1943 only 0.25% had emerged, while in 1942 no weevils had come out in the hibernation cages during this period.

SOUTH CAROLINA: The emergence of boll weevils into the cotton fields has been heavy and early this year. In a trap plot of 1/5-acre at Florence, S. C., 119 weevils had been collected by May 12. No weevils were taken from this trap plot by May 12 in 1944 and 1943, and only 1 weevil had been found by that date in 1942. Most of these early emerging weevils will die before there will be any cotton squares for them to puncture, but unless there is some hot, dry weather to help hold the weevils in check, they will probably be numerous enough to cause serious damage during the summer.

COTTON APHIDS: Examinations of 151 fields in 23 Texas Counties showed 133 with light aphid infestation, 17 with medium, and only 1 with heavy infestation. At Waco, Texas, there was a marked decrease in the cotton aphid infestations during the week ending May 12 and a notable increase in the number of predators that feed on the cotton aphid. At Tallulah, La., the aphids also decreased in numbers. At Florence, S. C., the aphid infestation continued to be heavy in some  
(over)



fields, but the infestations are spotted, some plants are heavily infested and seriously injured while adjacent plants are full of aphids.

THRIPS: Thrips were again reported from some cotton fields in South Carolina.

COTTON FLEA HOPPER: No flea hoppers were found in 90 of 217 cotton fields examined in southern and central Texas; in 100 fields less than 10 flea hoppers were found per 100 terminal buds; in 21 fields the range was from 11 to 25 flea hoppers, and in 6 fields from 26 to 50 flea hoppers per 100 terminal buds. Control measures were being used in 23 fields in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties. Based on hibernation cage emergence records at Waco, Texas, the cotton flea hoppers are about one-half as abundant as they were a year ago and about three times as numerous as they were at this time in 1943.

BOLLWORM: Bollworm moths have emerged in hibernation cages at Waco, Texas, in larger numbers than during any of the past 4 years, in slightly larger numbers than in 1941 and 1943, but many times more abundantly than in 1942 and 1944.

CUTWORMS: Severe local outbreaks of cutworms were reported from southern Georgia, southeastern Alabama, and northern Florida.

RAPID PLANT BUG: Rapid plant bugs were noted in small numbers in cotton fields at Waco, Texas.

SALT MARSH CATERPILLAR: Reported as doing damage to cotton near Waco, Texas.

INSECTS ON IRRIGATED COTTON OF THE SOUTHWEST: Beet armyworms and small darkling beetles of the genus Blapstinus are abundant in cotton fields in the Santa Cruz Valley in the region around Tucson, Ariz. The beetles have already caused considerable damage to seedling cotton plants in an 80-acre field and the armyworm infestation threatens to cause serious loss if not checked.

Sucking bugs that will later attack cotton are now feeding on alfalfa. Large numbers of Lygus sp. have been reported from the Salt River Valley of Arizona, while in the Santa Cruz Valley besides large numbers of Lygus, five other species, Chlorochroa sayi, Thyanta custator, Creontiades femoralis, Psallus seriatus, and Adelphocoris superbus have been noted. In the El Paso Valley of Texas, Lygus spp., Adelphocoris superbus, Euschistus impictiventris, and Thyanta custator are now in the alfalfa fields and may be expected to attack cotton during the summer.

Prepared May 17, 1945





